



Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) Quarterly Site Report for Berkeley licensed nuclear site

Report for period 1 July – 30 September 2017

Foreword

This report is issued as part of ONR's commitment to make information about inspection and regulatory activities relating to the above site available to the public. Reports are distributed quarterly to members for the Berkeley Site Stakeholder Group and are also available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/llic/>).

A site inspector from ONR usually attends Berkeley Site Stakeholder Group meetings and will respond to any questions raised there. Any person wishing to inquire about matters covered by this report should contact ONR.

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1 INSPECTIONS

1.1 Dates of inspection

The ONR site inspector made inspections on the following dates during the quarter:

- 24 to 27 July 2017 inspections
- 10 August 2017 inspection
- 20 and 21 September 2017 Emergency Demonstration Exercise

Telephone conferences were also held periodically between Berkeley, the Environment Agency and ONR inspectors to discuss waste management hazard reduction activities on the site.

2 ROUTINE MATTERS

2.1 Inspections

Inspections are undertaken as part of the process for monitoring compliance with:

- The conditions attached by ONR to the nuclear site licence granted under the Nuclear Installations Act 1965 (NIA65) (as amended);
- The Energy Act 2013;
- The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 (HSWA74); and
- Regulations made under HSWA74, for example the Ionising Radiations Regulations 1999 (IRR99) and the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 (MHSWR99).

The inspections entail monitoring licensee's actions on the site in relation to incidents, operations, maintenance, projects, modifications, safety case changes and any other matters that may affect safety. The licensee is required to make and implement adequate arrangements under the conditions attached to the licence in order to ensure legal compliance. Inspections seek to judge both the adequacy of these arrangements and their implementation.

In this period, routine inspections of Berkeley covered the following:

- System inspections in relation to removal of intermediate level waste from the caves against the licence conditions related to:
 - Staff training
 - Safety case and operating rules
 - Operating instructions
 - Safety mechanisms, devices and circuits
 - Maintenance
 - Control and containment of radioactive waste.
- A meeting with the Safety Representatives.

In general, ONR judged the arrangements made and implemented by the site in response to safety requirements to be adequate in the areas inspected. However, where improvements were considered necessary, the licensee made satisfactory commitments to address the issues, and the site inspector will monitor progress during future visits. Where necessary, ONR will take formal regulatory enforcement action to ensure that appropriate remedial measures are implemented to reasonably practicable timescales.

2.2 Other work

ONR also attended the regional Annual Review of Safety, Security and Environment for South West Sites on 19 September 2017 at Oldbury site that reviewed work undertaken at Berkeley, Hinkley Point A and Oldbury over the past year and looked ahead to future decommissioning work. Magnox Ltd demonstrated steady progress with safe decommissioning at the three sites during the reporting year.

3 NON-ROUTINE MATTERS

Licensees are required to have arrangements to respond to non-routine matters and events. ONR inspectors judge the adequacy of the licensee's response, including actions taken to implement any necessary improvements. An ONR assessor discussed with the site the latest assessment of the future hazards and risks from the work with ionising radiation on the Berkeley site at the end of 2016. The results of his assessment agrees with the Magnox Ltd assessment that the off-site risk was lower than that which would require an off-site emergency plan under the REPPiR regulations.

Berkeley notified ONR about an incident whereby there was a failure of a legacy sludge can in one of the waste vaults. This was due to a build-up of internal pressure and subsequent weld failure, after it had been moved for the first time in many years. Such an event was foreseen in the vaults' safety case and the can and its contents were contained safely within the vault. The site was considering the implications of the event before continuing with the movement of similar cans. ONR is content with site's response to this incident.

4 REGULATORY ACTIVITY

ONR may issue formal documents to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements. Under nuclear site licence conditions, ONR issues regulatory documents, which either permit an activity or require some form of action to be taken; these are usually collectively termed 'Licence Instruments' (LIs), but can take other forms. In addition, inspectors may issue Enforcement Notices to secure improvements to safety.

During the period no LIs or enforcement notices were issued.

5 NEWS FROM ONR

ONR Chief Nuclear Inspector, Dr Richard Savage, has announced he will be stepping down after two years in the role for family reasons. ONR has appointed Mark Foy, current Director of our Operating Facilities Division, as Acting Chief Nuclear Inspector (CNI) with effect from 30 October. ONR expects to appoint a permanent Chief Nuclear Inspector towards the end of 2017, subject to ministerial approval.

ONR will soon launch its new newsletter containing the latest news and developments from across the organisation. If you would like to receive this, please subscribe on the [ONR website](#).

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